

**ABSTRACT**

A Web Services Parallel Query (WSPQ) web service that allows a user to enter a question, parses that, distributes the question, user preferences and information parsed from the question to a number of search services. These search services then perform a search based upon the question and/or the parsed information. The search services then return results to the WSPQ web service. The WSPQ normalizes rankings of results provided by the search services, adjusts these rankings based upon default weights or client specified weights for search service providing the result and then presents the user with a unified list of results that are sorted or prioritized based upon their rank.

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